

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Sacred Heart Cathedral

and/or common Sacred Heart Cathedral

2. Location

street & number 903 Central Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Dodge City N/A vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Ford code 057

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

street & number 910 Central Avenue

city, town Dodge City vicinity of N/A state Kansas 67801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Ford County Courthouse

city, town Dodge City state Kansas 67801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate N/A ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sacred Heart Cathedral at the corner of Central and West Cedar in Dodge City, Kansas, is the oldest building in a complex that includes a rectory and school. The Cathedral, completed in 1916, is in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Only the church itself is being proposed for nomination, but the rest of the buildings, constructed between 1929 and 1955, were built in similar styles and with compatible materials making this a remarkably unified complex. Sacred Heart Cathedral has undergone only minor alterations since it was erected, none of which has detracted from its architectural integrity. It is located in a largely residential neighborhood.

Sacred Heart Cathedral was built on a typical basilican plan although it has no apse. The church measures approximately 50 feet by 110 feet. Eight additional feet were added in 1949 at the northeast corner when the east wall was extended to accommodate a confessional. A domed bell tower, square in plan, rises from the southeast corner of the building.

The planar quality of the off-white stucco walls is broken only on the east facade. There the entrance is surrounded by limestone elaborately carved in the Spanish Baroque manner. A characteristic quatrefoil-star window graces the clerestory level. The semi-elliptical arched windows that punctuate the north and south walls at regular intervals emphasize the simplicity of the wall by their plainness.

The roof of the church is finished with traditional red clay tile. Color is a very important factor in a design as simple as this. Earth tones are used everywhere but on the dome of the bell tower which is painted silver.

The bell tower has a distinctly Renaissance flavor, each side being capped by a pediment that rests on simple pilasters. There is a semicircular arched opening in each face also. A cross is situated atop the dome.

The interior of the church is as gracefully simple as the exterior. Its appeal derives from its straightforward handling of materials and forms. As on the outside, wall surfaces are planar. Variety in texture is provided through the open truss-work in the ceiling and through the clay flooring tiles.

George Melville Stone completed four murals that complement the character of the church. They consist of a large mural (26 feet square) of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ located behind the altar, and three lunettes over the doors of the vestibule which depict the Good Samaritan, the Good Shepherd, and the Angels at the Tomb. These murals are discussed further in the "Significance" section.

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Alterations to the church itself are few and minor. The confessional at the northeast corner of the church has already been mentioned. In 1967 the old altar was replaced with a simpler one. In that year, too, a doorway was added on the bell tower for safety reasons.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1916

Builder/Architect

Cram & Ferguson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sacred Heart Cathedral in Dodge City, completed in 1916, is an excellent example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style as employed by one the leading church architecture firms in the country--that of Cram and Ferguson. Located on the Santa Fe trail in western Kansas, it was felt that this made an appropriate stylistic statement. The church also contains fine murals by the Topeka artist, George Melville Stone. This nomination consists only of the church, which is the only remnant of the 1916 construction that also included a rectory and a school. Only some parts of the rest of the complex are now old enough to meet the age requirement for listing.

The first Catholic church built in Dodge City was a frame structure that was completed in 1882. Like many other small churches of the day it was a simple rectangular building with a steeple at one end. Detailing was in the ubiquitous Gothic style.

In 1915 a drive was begun to construct a new church in Dodge City. It is said that the pastor of the church, Father Handly, had performed a personal favor for Cram and it was in repayment of this favor that Cram sent a set of plans for the new church. A newspaper account of September 15, 1915, states that the architect spent nearly seven months on the plans.

The construction of the Catholic church in Dodge City was widely acclaimed. The Dodge City Journal in its coverage of the dedication ceremony of August 2, 1916 stated that "a large crowd gathered, including all the Catholics and many non-Catholics of Dodge City; for the most influential citizens of Dodge City are hearty sympathizers with the efforts of the Catholics to build a church in keeping with the wonderful progress of the Queen City of the Short Grass. Catholics also came in large numbers from all the surrounding parishes." The Dodge City Daily Globe headlined its story of the dedication with "Magnificent Sacred Heart Church is Dedicated by Bishop Hennessy." Obviously the building was well-received.

The interior of the church was as carefully detailed as the exterior. The description in the August 2, 1916 Journal is as valid today as when it was written. "The roof is open trestle-work. . .It is supported by many arches whose rough cast surfaces suggest great strength and solidity. The floor is laid in quarry tile. The decorations of the church are exquisitely harmonious."

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The murals by George Melville Stone were highly praised. One of the most interesting features of the altar mural is the Southwest motifs that Stone employed. He depicted a desert-like region with the flora of the American Southwest and modeled his figures on Indians. One of the figures sits astride a pinto pony.

Although Cram and Ferguson are better known for their Gothic designs, it was not unusual for them to employ the Mediterranean styles in situations where it seemed suitable. The cathedrals of Los Angeles and Havana were done in variations on the Spanish style. Also, about the time that Sacred Heart Cathedral was designed, Bertram Goodhue was still with Cram and Ferguson. Goodhue was a great believer in Spanish Colonial architecture and was the advisory and consulting architect for the Panama-California Exposition which was held in 1915. At that Exposition the past and future of the Southwest was exemplified through the use of the Spanish Colonial style for its buildings.

Sacred Heart was, then, in keeping with contemporary academic architectural ideas. Both its interior and exterior design are suited to its role as "a conspicuous ecclesiastical feature of the Santa Fe Trail." (Dodge City Daily Globe, Sept. 9, 1915.)

THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Price, C. Matlock. "The Panama-California Exposition, San Diego California: Bertram G. Goodhue and the Renaissance of Spanish Colonial Architecture," The Architectural Record, 37 No. 3 (March 1975), 220-351.

Schuyler, Montgomery. "The Works of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson; A record of the Firm's Representative Structures, 1892-1910," The Architectural Record, 29 (Jan., 1911). 1-112.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dodge City Daily Globe. Sept. 9, 1915; Aug. 2, 1916.

Dodge City Journal. Aug. 12, 1916.

(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Dodge City

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 14 410450 4179080
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification This nomination includes only the Sacred Heart Cathedral located on lots 11 and 12, Block 45, of the original town of Dodge City. Contiguous structures are not considered to be part of this nomination.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society--HPD date

street & number 120 West 10th telephone 913-296-3251

city or town Topeka state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Nora Pat Small*

title Ex. Dir. & State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 4, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration